COST ENGINEERING NEWSLETTER

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Construction Equipment Ownership and Operating Expense Schedule

Rick Grubb, Walla Walla District.

EP 1110-1-8

The current version of EP 1110-1-8 (30 September 1997), Construction Equipment Ownership and Operating Expense Schedule, has been completed. Cost Engineering Branches should have received their copies. The Equipment Database for MCACES is available and should have been or is being distributed. If you have any questions or comments contact Rick Grubb at CENWW-ED-C, Walla Walla District Cost Engineering Branch, 509-527-7515.

Some changes from the previous edition of the EP that may be of interest are:

*Internet addresses have been included.

*Parts of Chapter 1 have been rewritten or changed.

*Parts of Chapter 2 have been rewritten or changed.

*Parts of Chapter 3 have been rewritten and an example has been added.

*Fuel consumption factors in Appendix D have been revised.

*Fuel consumption constants in Chapter 2 (2-23.b.(3)) have been revised.

*FOG factors in Appendix D have been revised to include handling and disposal of Hazardous and Toxic waste.

*A blank Equipment Rate Computation Worksheet is included in Appendix A.

*A CHECKRATE Software request is included in Appendix A.

EM 1110-2-1304

The current version of EM 1110-2-1304, (September 1997), Civil Works Construction Cost Index System (CWCCIS) has been distributed. For additional copies contact Rick Grubb at CENWW-ED-C, Walla Walla

District Cost Engineering Branch, 509-527-7515.

Windows NT Upgrade Warning

Verle J. Heindselman, Jr.
Louisville District

This is a special note of caution when upgrading your operating environment from Windows 3.x to Windows NT for Workstations. When installing Windows NT, you are given the option to install as an upgrade or to install as a new installation. **Always choose the new installation method**. If you choose the upgrade installation, you will not be able to run MCACES Gold, or any other 16-bit DOS based program. The following error message will appear leaving you dead in the water:

16-Bit MS-DOS Operating System

Application Name (i.e. MCACES Gold)

NTVDM has encountered a system error. The parameter is incorrect.

   Terminate   Ignore

Selecting either "Terminate" or "Ignore" will return you to the Windows desktop.

This problem was discovered through the Modular Design System program development process, and affects several computers in the Reserve Support Commands. The Modular Design System uses MCACES Gold 5.30 as its cost estimating engine.

Verle J. Heindselman, Jr.
CELRL-ED-C,
(502) 582-5789

TRACES Systems Group

HAG Module

Rex A. McLaury ,
Huntsville Division

HAG version 2.0 is nearly complete. At the recent HAG/ACF In-Progress-Review meeting at the BSD contractor facility, all enhancements have been reviewed and it was agreed that HAG 2.0 is well on its way to being finished. Currently, CATCODE and Installation Tables, and the HAG database (projects and facilities) are being scrubbed. Thanks to the help of Tri-Services steering committee review team, we should have HAG working quite nicely with a current up-to-date database. As before, the final distribution is still scheduled

for the end of February 1998. Following distribution from the HNC TRACES group, we are hoping that HAG version 2.0 will be available on CD by next earliest NIBBS-CCB quarterly distribution.

Cost Risk

Rex A. McLaury

A meeting with Building Systems Design, the Cost Risk Review Team and Dr. James Diekmann was held on 11/13/97 at the BSD facility. Dr. Diekmann gave us a short instructional presentation on the philosophy of using an commercial of-the-shelf Risk Tool (Crystal Ball) that will interface with M32 to do risk analyses on government estimates. Thus, the purpose for this meeting was quite obvious: to determine how COST-RISK (CORPS- Risk) would be developed to interface with M32. This show and tell format propagated into active team discussion and exchange of ideas/concerns. Consensus was, to keep COST-RISK as a stand-alone system interfacing with Crystal Ball; do not duplicate features that are already included in the Crystal Ball; do not transfer M32 data files back and forth, instead, change the assumptions which change the contingency of the estimate and use Crystal Ball to

produce the level of certainty or confidence of a given cost estimate. BSD was informed of new requirements that significantly reduced the complexity of the task (than was originally anticipated). After the meeting, minutes of the meeting were sent to the Tri-Services team members, accordingly.

To date, Cost Risk development (phases 1) is currently postponed (TBD) until scheduled delivery conflicts with other software developments have been resolved. This is to allow BSD to focus on M32 development/distribution. Once new delivery dates are proposed, information will be sent to Tri-Services

M32
Jim Nichols, Huntsville Division

The 85% beta submission of the MCACES for Windows 32-Bit (M32) software which was scheduled for a 1 December 1997 has been delayed. "The change in development platform coupled with the loss of a key staff member and an unprecedented workload has caused the delay" stated John Witherspoon in a letter to the contracting officer, dated 24 November 1997. Witherspoon added "The platform change from Visual Basic 4 to Visual Basic 5 will

provide significant performance improvements, a more object-oriented software code organization (creating a more stable and maintainable product), an improved platform for future Internet-related development and better support for future Client/Server implementation". The new dates for the 85% and 100% submittals are approximately 1 February and mid-summer 1998. Since the M32 software will be a major tool in the TRACES toolbox, the TRACES Proponents and the ARA have agreed to postpone some of the other BSD software development requirements to expedite development of M32.

ACF Module
Jim Nichols

During the week of 18-19 November 1997 a 70% In-Progress-Review Meeting was scheduled in conjunction with HAG at Building Systems Design (BSD), Inc. in Atlanta, Georgia. The purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the progress made by BSD on the development of Area Cost Factors for Windows 32 Bit (ACF32). During the meeting it became apparent that Matrix Factors and Report Formats were the most concerning.

At the meeting a change in

philosophy concerning the use of survey cities to identify ACF survey information was addressed. In the past, all survey information was maintained at the installation level and the ARA was responsible for making sure that information was duplicated and maintained for locations who shared a survey city. The new philosophy centers around the use of a second level, a survey city. The survey city would be further broken down to the installation level, but would serve as a way to assure that the labor, material, and equipment information is correctly maintained for all installations tied to the survey city. The only differing factor at the installation level would be the matrix factors. It was generally agreed that this philosophy would be better than the existing DOS version.

A change in scope was proposed by BSD which would provide a way to support times where the survey city may be across state lines from the installation. This situation would be resolved by allowing the user to first identify the state where they want to select the survey city from and then select the survey city from the available pick list. It was also decided that there would be a hierarchy procedure for identifying

whether the location is a survey city, state average city, or a base city.

For information the next survey is budgeted for FY98 and RS Means would be performing the work. To ensure RS Means uses good pricing data and quality of materials, another meeting is scheduled with the Tri-Services in January 1998 at Tyndall AFB to address those concerns.

ACF32 mass distributed on CD is expected to occur during 31 March 1998.

TRACES Suites

Terry Patton
Huntsville Division

In a recent TRACES Cost Engineering Steering Committee Meeting, the TRACES ARA Team was given the tasking to coordinate and develop a TRACES Cost Engineering Compact Disk Suite. When completed the Suite should have almost all of the Cost Engineering Tools available to the Tri-Service cost engineer. This suite shall include but not be limited to the M32, PC-Cost, HAG, LCC and ACF32 software applications as well as the latest UPB and other supporting databases. More news to come on this HOT topic!

PC-COST Module

Terry Patton

The government has just received and is currently reviewing a beta version of the PC-Cost Module, 3.10. Some of the new features of latest version include the capability to Export multiple cost estimates, Printing of exchange rates, Updates of cost tables, New site sensitivity factors and new documentation pages and help screens. The PC-Cost Module is expected to be sent to each district and division sometime this Spring.

UPB Module

Terry Patton

The National 1996/1997 English Unit Price Book was forwarded to each Corps district and division as well as to the Departments of the Air Force and Navy on 3 December 1997. The UPB was shipped in both hardcopy (3 Volumes) and electronic versions, the electronic version is readable in the MCACES Gold and MCACES for Windows software applications. The pricing data for the UPB was gathered by R.S. Means for a typical construction project in the 7-10 Million size (with the appropriate discounts). Currently R.S. Means is in the process of developing a

Metric UPB for the Tri-Services, the release date is anticipated to be during the March/April time frame. If you have any questions concerning the overall UPB or specific line items, R.S. Means has a Tri-Service "specific" hotline which is maintained during regular business hours. The hotline number is 1-800-334-3509. If you have any contractual questions or desired changes, please contract Terry Patton, 205-895-1844 at the TRACES ARA.

Military Programs Reorganization

Ronald Hatwell
HQUSACE, CEMP-EE

As you know by now the Engineering and Construction Divisions have merged to form the Engineering and Construction Division with all functions combined. Enclosed is a chart showing the consolidation and the resultant Command lines. This is the first of what will be several changes in the organization.

As far as the impact to the Cost Engineering and Programs Formulation Branch, it has ben minimal, some functions have been moved to the Policy and Formulation Team (A-E Contracting policy) and we

have gained CCASS, S&A monitoring and data, review functions and Cost Estimating Mods.

As a result of cut backs and retirement we have lost Dr. Larry Schindler to retirement and Pat Fite has been transferred to RM. We sorely miss both of them. Dr. Schindler's LCC functions have been assigned to Todd Omura (202-761-0466), Pat Fite's duties have been assigned as follows: HAG data and software to Donna Smigel (202-761-0336), Newsletter and Cost Engineer Directory to Jacqualine (Jackyee) Campbell (202-761-4747).

The Branch has been re-named CEMP-EE and we have consolidated all functions into two Teams: Construction Cost Engineering - Team leader Bob Wong; includes Jerry Steele, Donna Smigel, DS Gim and Miguel Jumilla. The Engineering Support and Programs Formulation Team - Team leader Ray Lynn; includes Jean McGinn, Lisele Okojie, Todd Omura and Justin Taylor.

In general terms Bob's team will support all Cost Engineering efforts while Ray's team will support all CAD/GIS, EBS, all software support and economic analysis efforts.

We would like to take this time to thank you for all the support you have provided us with during the past year and wish you the best for you and your family next year. We hope that everyone had a HAPPY and safe HOLIDAY!

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM CEMP-EE
AND CECW-EC**

This unofficial newsletter authorized under the provisions of AR 25-30 is designed to bring you up-date information in the cost engineering/estimating arena and on things happening at headquarters and elsewhere within the Corps. We encourage everybody to provide comments and suggestions so that future issues can address your needs. Ms. Jackyee Campbell (CEMP-EE) is the writer/coordinator for this newsletter and can be reached at (202) 761-4747 for any comments, inputs, etc. **DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL EDITION IS 20 MARCH 1998.**

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│ **SPECIAL NOTICE!!!** │
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Hard copies of the *Cost Engineering Newsletter* and the *Cost Engineering Phone Directory* will no longer be sent by mail. In the future all newsletters and the updated telephone directory will be on

the Internet at the following address:
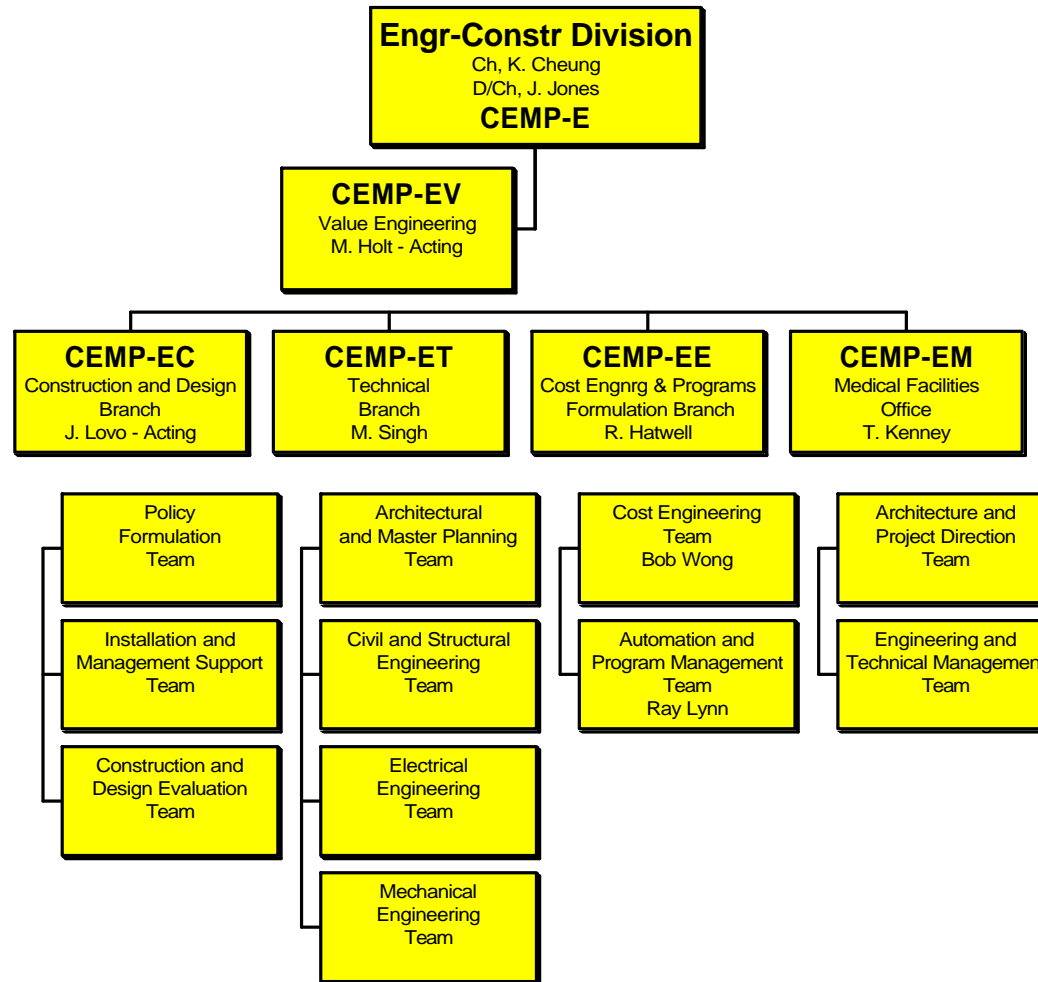**http://www.hq.usace.army. mil/cemp/e/ec-regs.htm**.
However, I will send an E-Mail requesting your information and update.   The New point of contact for both the newsletter and the phone directory is Jacqualine Campbell (Jackyee), Secretary to Ron Hatwell, Chief, CEMP-EE, 202-761-4747.   I look forward to working with everyone.

Engineering and Construction Division
CONSOLIDATION

Engr-Constr Division
Ch, K. Cheung
D/Ch, J. Jones
CEMP-E

CEMP-EV
Value Engineering
M. Holt - Acting

CEMP-EC	**CEMP-ET**	**CEMP-EE**	**CEMP-EM**
Construction and Design Branch	Technical Branch	Cost Engnrg & Programs Formulation Branch	Medical Facilities Office
J. Lovo - Acting	M. Singh	R. Hatwell	T. Kenney

Policy Formulation Team	Architectural and Master Planning Team	Cost Engineering Team Bob Wong	Architecture and Project Direction Team
Installation and Management Support Team	Civil and Structural Engineering Team	Automation and Program Management Team Ray Lynn	Engineering and Technical Management Team
Construction and Design Evaluation Team	Electrical Engineering Team		
	Mechanical Engineering Team		